



Climate Smart Kingston
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 481-7339

Meeting Notes
Monday April 7, 2014
City Hall Conference Room 1
3:00-4:30pm

Present: Jennifer Schwartz Berky, Pat Courtney-Strong, Michael D'Arcy, Jeff Domanski, Emilie Hauser, Julie Noble (coordinator), Casey Schwarz, Gregg Swanzey, Arthur Zaczekiewicz and on phone: Melissa Everett and Brad Will

I. Climate Smart Kingston Formalization

Julie informed the group that she had officially submitted the CAC's letter of request, draft resolution and supporting documentation for the formalization of Climate Smart Kingston to Jim Noble and Carly Williams on March 31st.

II. Climate Smart Kingston 2014 Goals

a. Sub-committee Formation

There was a discussion that at this time, sub-committees would be informal but if the formalization went through, then the sub-committees would be officially established.

b. Reporting and Communications

Each Climate Smart Kingston meeting will host a time for a call for actions needed or decisions to be made by the full committee for each sub-committee. Other communications and updates will otherwise be done through email between meetings.

i. Marketing/Communications Strategy (Arthur Zaczekiewicz)

Arthur is convening a sub-committee of the CAC (including himself, Melissa Everett, Allison Teetsel, Michael D'Arcy, Hayes Clement), which will have overlap with Climate Smart Kingston to focus on developing a comprehensive communications strategy, which scope will include outreach, public engagement, a marketing strategy, public relations, soft energy tips, event promotion, Climate Action Plan and CAC initiative promotion, and long term consistent messaging, also Facebook administration; This sub-committee will have its inaugural meeting on April 21st at the Kirkland and will meet monthly; there was a discussion about the city's streamlining effort to have all city related initiatives hosted on the City's website and how, though www.kingstoncac.org was just renewed for another year, once that is phased out, the domain should still be pointed to www.kingston-ny.gov for a few years, to transition users of kingstoncac.org over to the City website; there was a discussion about hosting a World Café, which Melissa will take the lead on to engage the public and local leaders in Kingston's climate change efforts, she and Arthur will look into using the Caring Hands Soup Kitchen as a site in early May; Arthur also suggested the idea for a Sustainability Conference in the Fall;

ii. Renewables Strategy (Melissa Everett)

The goal of the renewables strategy is to achieve a visible transformation in tandem with energy efficiency improvements. Melissa spoke to a Draft Renewables Strategy that was shared with the group. One highlight would include a solar home tour, to highlight energy champions. Patrice mentioned that NYSEERDA has EV and solar permitting language available that could be used as a template.

iii. Energy Ambassador Program (now Energy Advocate Program) (*Michael D'Arcy*)

There was a discussion about shifting the name to Energy Advocates, which is more in line with the term RUPCO uses for their outreach. The goal of this program is to gather and train advocates to go out and engage the community in energy reduction initiatives; identify champions in the community and host dinners to spotlight those; include energy saving education, home energy audit information, energy retrofit info, Home Performance with Energy Star programs for both residential and commercial, go door to door and also to events in the community, engage city staff, include Climate Smart Kingston's initiatives in communications to public; Mike has been creating a Train the Trainer module, which will include a presentation/training for new advocates as well as literature and other resources, a step by step guide for homeowners; goal is to get 10% of Kingston residences to have an audit (984 audits) and 10% of that to take the next steps to have energy retrofit work done (98); Mike needs messaging, wording and logos to move forward; Mike will be setting up a training, dates chosen over Doodle poll, where advocates will become educators, materials will include audit info and also a one pager about Climate Smart Kingston, which Arthur will develop;

iv. Broadway Corridor Streetscape Grant collaboration (*Gregg Swanzey*)

Gregg discussed the Main Street Revitalization Proposal, which is a Central Hudson grant that the city is applying for, with UPAC and RUPCO to address HVAC systems, sidewalks, public spaces in Midtown, also \$30,000 for streetscape improvements particularly focusing on Cornell Street which could include sidewalks, historic and efficient lighting, possibly burying utility lines, and high speed internet; Climate Smart Kingston will continue to work with the Office of Economic Development as called on with these and the Broadway and Sewage Treatment Plan grants;

v. Governmental Energy Upgrade

Casey offered to review the Wendell Flex Tech Energy Study which was completed in 2007, a study of municipal building energy use and upgrade recommendations; there was discussion about Climate Smart Kingston focusing on storm window upgrades to City Hall and both RUPCO and Courtney-Strong have had experience with this upgrade; Patrice mentioned that there are not any NYSERDA incentives for this necessarily but it could roll into a loan package, she also mentioned it could have up to a 45 year pay back; most importantly, it was discussed that window upgrades need to be coupled with improved air sealing in the building for maximum efficiency and savings; Casey will take the lead on this

vi. Comprehensive Plan Language Integration

There was a discussion about the unknown status of an expected draft Comprehensive Plan update; Climate Smart Kingston will review the draft once it is available and submit comments thereafter; Jennifer discussed looking into options to fund the incorporation of climate adaptation and mitigation language, as well as the Climate Action Plan, Waterfront Flooding Task Force report, and other relevant documents into the Comprehensive Plan;

vii. Climate Action Tracking Online

Julie and Arthur will meet to discuss options and strategies for tracking Climate Action Plan successes and initiatives; Jennifer mentioned to look at PlaNYC's tracking system;

III. Additional Business (added to agenda at beginning of meeting)

a. Waterfront Flooding Task Force

There was discussion about the city pursuing eligibility for the Community Rating System (a National Flood Insurance Program discount program for eligible communities); Emilie mentioned

that Art Snyder is updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan and that a Community Emergency Communications Plan is being developed

b. Smart meters

Brad discussed a concern from constituents for the proposed use of “smart meters” and suggested that he will share with us information that he had about this topic, along with a film, further mentioning that the capacity zone resolution is energy and money related, addressing threatening energy portfolios; the group decided that this matter should be referred to the CAC as Climate Smart Kingston was working primarily on the established 2014 Goals, and particularly drawing from the Climate Action Plan, and that the CAC held the role of advocacy.

Julie will send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting date.